



November 21, 2014

The Honorable Joan Carter Conway
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
Miller Senate Office Building
2 West Wing
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Peter Hammen
Chair
House Health and Government Operations Committee
House Office Building
6 Bladen Street, Room 241
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairwoman Carter Conway and Chairman Hammen:

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) and the Department of Human Resources (DHR) continue to work together closely to oversee providers that serve medically fragile children in foster care. We are writing to provide you with some additional information.

- **Second Family:** DHMH's Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) continues to maintain close oversight of this provider, including unannounced on-site inspections. On November 14, 2014, OHCQ met with the leadership of Second Family to discuss their services. Attached are the results of recent inspections at Second Family, Inc., including the provider's accepted plans of correction. These plans show that Second Family, Inc. is working to improve training and compliance in several areas.
- **Training:** DHMH (through its Developmental Disabilities Administration) and DHR are working together to provide additional education, training, and technical support to all providers of services for medically fragile children in foster care. This will involve hiring an independent provider to assess that training needs at all three providers for medically fragile children in foster care and assuring that key training identified is completed.
- **OHCQ Children's Unit:** The OHCQ is set to begin recruitment for a new position that will oversee OHCQ's children's unit. This additional position will enhance the Department's ability to ensure the health, safety and welfare of children being served by these providers.

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As we move forward, we will share updates with you. Please contact us if there are any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh M. Sharfstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Josh" being more prominent.

Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D.
Secretary
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Theodore Dallas". The signature is cursive and elegant, with the last name "Dallas" being the most distinct part.

Theodore Dallas
Secretary
Department of Human Resources